

May 10, 2013

Weekly Views

The Indianapolis Parole District #3 was well represented by Specialized-Agents Gerald Carter and Denise Jackson, who spoke to the Ben Davis Lions Club about the challenges of the work they are presented with and the shortage of resources available to assist their clients in their transition to becoming self-sufficient and productive members of the community. Those in attendance were raving fans of the recent docu-drama *Parole Diaries* that aired on TV-ONE, depicting their daily interactions and challenges in effecting positive change. Following their presentation, Tim McDonough, pictured below, Lions Club president provided a large donation of food items for immediate assistance to those in need.



The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Faith and Character Based Advisory Board commenced their quarterly meeting at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) where they discussed topics concerning Purposeful Living Units Served (PLUS) policies and procedures and plans for future involvement in IDOC facilities across the state. Among those in attendance were IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, Deputy Commissioner Randy Koester, Executive Directors Jerry Vance and Julie Lanham, and Director Mike Lloyd. Honorable Eric Turner from the Indiana House of Representatives, Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith with the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, and Dr. Melissa Stacer with the University of Southern Indiana were also among the many guests attending the meeting. Board members toured facility units where participants in IREF's Indiana Veterans Education & Transition and Reformatory Residential Re-Entry Programs presented program information and highlighted past program-sponsored events. Students of the Oakland City University culinary arts program at IREF prepared an elegant meal for the Board members. The meal and service showcased the various food preparation and restaurant service and management skills the students have learned in class.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a program to celebrate the opening of the Pendleton Correctional Complex Staff Fitness Center and to also celebrate the 90 year history of the facility. Case Worker Dan Fountain provided an informative presentation of the facility's history from its origin in Jeffersonville to the present time. Indiana Department of Correction Executive Director of Adult Facilities Tom Hanlon and retired Superintendent Jack Duckworth served as guest speakers for the event.

Staff picnics, corn hole, ping pong, fitness walks, bowling and basketball with Superintendent Stanley Knight was enjoyed by staff during employee recognition week at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. An employee recognition ceremony, motorcycle run, softball game, ice cream social and gun shoot concluded the week of events.

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) celebrated Employee Appreciation Week with a Recognition Ceremony, honoring several staff with their years of service pins and perfect attendance awards. Also recognized were those who retired and passed away in the past year as well as staff involved in the military. The ceremony culminated in the announcement of the facility's three Employees of the Year: Captain Danny Tucker was named Supervisor of the Year; Officer Jean LeJeune was named Officer of the Year; and Robert Eutz, Director of MCF's Braille and Large Media Program, received Employee of the Year.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility kicked off Correctional Employee Appreciation week with a cookout and ice cream sundaes for all staff members. Throughout the week staff were treated to breakfast cooked to order by Superintendent Griffin, a very interesting scavenger hunt, a complimentary car wash, courtesy of Supt. Griffin, loaded baked potatoes with all the fixings, bowling, a picnic style lunch, and fresh donuts and cold chocolate milk.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility observed Correctional Employees Week, paying tribute to its 664 staff members. Superintendent Richard Brown expressed his appreciation saying "You are committed to preparing offenders for a successful return to society. You have my thanks and deep respect." Amy Eickmeier was honored as Supervisor of the Year, Officer of the Year honors went to Fred Roessler. Rookie of the Year is Charlie Dugan and Employee of the Year is Joe Burkhardt. Congratulations all!

The Trader's Point Christian Church Celebrate Recovery volunteers facilitated a live concert at the Indiana Women's Prison which involved recovery testimonies, homemade cookies and lemonade offered to the 204 offenders in attendance. Several offenders spoke of their continued recovery from addictions and how the Celebrate Recovery Program offers support and options for their healing.

The Kairos Prison Ministry was held at the Correctional Industrial Facility for the 12th time in six years. The four day program involved participation by 42 offenders and 50 Kairos volunteers. The Kairos Organization is an international Christian faith based ministry. An inspirational closing ceremony offered the offenders the opportunity to give powerful testimonies which attested to the impact of the program.

Offenders participating in the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University program at Westville Correctional Facility are ending their course by making videos. 22 offenders have spent 13 weeks learning approaches to a healthy financial lifestyle and how to avoid financial disasters. These videos, sent to the offender upon release, will serve as a reminder of their fiscal goals and will prompt them to follow through with their financial commitments. These offenders will have the opportunity to continue, free of charge, in any Dave Ramsey program in the country.

Lemuel Vega and company delivered Christmas Behind Bars at New Castle Correctional Facility for the offender population.